

Draft Meeting Plan

Ecosystem *n.* A system made up of a community of animals, plants, and bacteria and the physical and chemical environment with which it is interrelated.

Webster's New World Dictionary

Purpose: Conduct a workshop for Bay-Delta stakeholders to the concept and utility of an ecosystem approach for the Bay-Delta.

Date & Time: June 8, 1995, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Location: Sacramento Hilton

Workshop Goals and Objectives

1. Focus Stakeholder Efforts in Defining an Ecosystem Approach to the Bay-Delta
 - A. Enhance and improve discussion of ecosystem approaches
 - B. Develop a common language and understanding of an ecosystem approach
 - C. Define how a comprehensive ecosystem approach can apply to the Bay-Delta.
2. Show Progress Towards Solutions:
 - A. Draft a working definition of an ecosystem approach
 - B. Define important components of an ecosystem approach
 - C. Develop the needs or objectives for some components
3. Play a Role in the Ongoing Bay-Delta Process
 - A. Clarify the role of ecosystem approaches in the Bay-Delta process
 - B. Provide input to CalFED and stakeholder group
 - C. Identify Bay-Delta ecosystem needs to be considered and addressed in the planning process
4. Produce a Valuable Product for Participants, Stakeholders, and Decision Makers
 - A. Summarize the process and results of the workshop
 - B. Document consensus and agreements
 - C. Identify next steps

Co-sponsors

- Confirmed: CUWA, CalFED, Bay Institute of San Francisco, Share the Water, Northern CA Water Association, San Luis/Delta Mendota Water Authority
- Potential: University of California, Nature Conservancy, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, Delta Protection Commission

Benefits to Participants

1. Develop common understanding and language toward developing an ecosystem approach with respect to the Bay-Delta.
2. Identify and discuss the important issues, interests, and values of participants
3. Focus each organization's efforts and understand roles and responsibilities in a Bay-Delta ecosystem approach.

Participants

Knowledgeable professionals in water and environmental management in California. Approximately two representatives from each of 40 to 50 stakeholder organizations.

Agenda

- 8:30 Coffee and Registration
- 9:00 Call to Order, Byron Buck and Lester Snow
- 9:15 Keynotes: Doug Wheeler and Felicia Marcus (big picture of the importance of the challenge in front of us)
- 9:45 Workshop Format and Process, Charles Gardiner
- 10:00 Morning Breakout: Recognizing that there is no commonly accepted definition of ecosystem management, what should be included in an ecosystem approach to the Bay-Delta?
- 11:30 Reconvene to report results and select afternoon topics
- 12:00 Lunch and a speaker from comparable process, e.g. South Florida (Challenge is achievable and lessons learned from a similar complex problem)

- 1:30 Afternoon Breakout: What are the important factors to be considered in addressing the topics identified?
- 3:15 Reconvene to discuss results
- 4:15 Next Steps and Evaluation, Lester Snow and Byron Buck
- 4:30 Adjourn / No host reception

Approach and Strategy

1. Establish the magnitude/importance of the challenge in front of us. Provide big picture view of where we are going (Lester Snow, Doug Wheeler, and Felicia Marcus)
2. Facilitate smaller group discussions about the components of ecosystem-based approaches to foster greater understanding and clarity (all groups discuss same topic and question). Identify high priority components for analysis and planning (simple balloting exercise) Set the stage for afternoon discussions of factors and objectives.
3. Convene larger group to discuss and refine results of smaller group discussions. Conduct simple ranking exercise to select six components for afternoon discussion.
4. Describe how another area tackled a similar set of challenges, key obstacles and lessons learned, that the goal is achievable (invited speaker)
5. Facilitate six smaller group discussions to identify the important factors or objectives for six topics identified by the full group. Each group tackles separate component. Assign people to topics to create balance. Focus discussion on what are the important factors or objectives to move toward decisions (what are we trying to accomplish for each component) and away from how we are going to do it (alternative actions).
6. Convene full group to discuss and report on small group discussions.
7. Describe next steps and adjourn.

Description of Breakout Sessions

Morning Breakout

Purpose

- Foster interaction among participants
- Increase clarity of ecosystem terminology
- Identify important issues and questions for the stakeholders
- Encourage group consensus and ownership of ideas
- Establish group priorities for further discussion
- Provide a structure for discussion and clarification
- Minimize debate about alternatives actions or solutions

Format

Simultaneous small group discussion among 10 to 15 workshop participants in 6 breakout sessions

Approach

The facilitation approach will provide the structure for discussion. The approach encourages individual participation and fosters group ownership. Facilitation will have four steps:

1. **Individual idea generation**—Each person spends 10 to 15 minutes thinking about the question posed (see below for question)
2. **Round robin listing of ideas**—Taking turns, each participant reports on one idea or response. Facilitator records ideas on a flip chart until all ideas are recorded.
3. **Group clarification of ideas**—Facilitator reviews each item with the group to determine if the group is clear on meaning and definition. Items can be refined, combined, or added.
4. **Group priority setting**—Group priority setting exercise is conducted (several approaches are available) to determine ranking order of responses.

Question

What do you believe should be included in an ecosystem approach to the Bay-Delta?

Example Components:

- Definition of the geographic and functional boundaries of the ecosystem
- Predictable water allocations
- Water transport facilities
- Habitat enhancement
- Water conservation
- Predictive modelling
- Economics
- A monitoring program
- Water quality improvement
- Adaptive management
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Reconvene Session

1. Round robin reporting from each group of their top-rated component to be addressed. Repeat until 12 to 18 are listed (remainder can be compiled from breakout group flipcharts).
2. Group clarifying of top 12 to 18.
3. Group ranking of most important ones for more detailed discussion in afternoon session. Each participant sticks a dot on the question she/he most wants to discuss on the way to lunch (three dots per person).
4. Identify and announce six breakout session topics during lunch.

Result

- A full, ranked listing from each group of components to be addressed in an ecosystem approach.
- Greater understanding and clarity of terminology (participants use their own language and clarify for themselves).
- Group ownership of the important components.
- Identified breakout sessions for afternoon.

Afternoon Breakout

Purpose

- Continue interaction among participants
- Identify important factors in addressing ecosystem components
- Encourage group consensus and ownership of ideas
- Establish group priorities for further discussion and analysis
- Provide a structure for discussion and clarification
- Minimize debate about alternatives actions or solutions

Format

Small group discussion among 10 to 15 workshop participants

Approach

The same facilitation approach will be used as the morning session:

1. **Individual idea listing**—Each person develops an individual list of important factors in addressing the ecosystem component (components determined by full group prior to lunch)
2. **Round robin listing of ideas**—Taking turns, each participant reports on one idea or response. Facilitator records ideas on a flip chart until all ideas are recorded.
3. **Group clarification of ideas**—Facilitator reviews each item with the group to determine if the group is clear on meaning and definition.
4. **Group priority setting**—Group priority setting exercise is conducted (several approaches are available) to determine ranking order of factors.

Question

What are the important factors to be considered in answering the question posed by the full group? Example components that might come from the morning session:

- Definition of ecosystem boundaries
- Habitat enhancement
- Predictive modelling
- Economics
- Adaptive management

Reconvene Session

1. Round robin reporting from each group of their top-rated factor for addressing their component. Repeat until 3 to 5 are listed for each question (determined by time available, remainder can be compiled from breakout group flipcharts).
2. Presentation on Next Steps and Workshop Evaluation Survey (Lester Snow and Byron Buck)
3. Evaluation survey.

Result

- A full listing from each group of important factors to be addressed for six ecosystem components.
- Greater understanding of the most important factors to be addressed.
- Group ownership of the important factors.